

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-5 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2 and 6-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6-7, 9, 13 and 16 are independent.

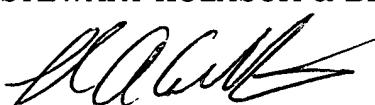
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact John A. Castellano at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss this application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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